

of reconnoitering more than one of thorough exploration, but as Kansu is difficult land I first want to become acquainted with local conditions before starting out on anything very big."

"In the splendid bracing autumn weather which we are experiencing here these last days I have seen several Chinamen carrying plants of the deliciously fragrant tea-olive *Olea fragrans* through the streets of the city here. These plants are all grafted on *Ligustrum* sp. (*L. sinense* or *L. quihoui*?) In the Shantung Province however they use as stock *Chionanthus retusa*, while in Central China the plant thrives on its own roots.

"Now this thought occurs to me. Our olive is a very near relative of this *Olea fragrans*, our olive suffers much here and there from frosts, from ill-drainage and from root-rot. Could not we make some extensive experiments in grafting or budding olives of various species of *Ligustrum* on various species of *Chionanthus* and on various species of *Fraxinus*, with the aim to make *Olea europaea* hardier, more resistant to various uncongenial factors and above all to make it more fruitful? Have also experiments been made already, for so far as you are aware, to make "standard" trees out of *Forsythia viridissima* and *F. suspensa* by grafting it on Ashes, Fringe-trees and Privets or Lilacs, for instance on *Syringa amurensis*? Since this whole family of *Oleaceae* seems to bear grafting and budding of one species on the other so remarkably well, our office might be able to produce something remarkable along these lines. For the olive I should say the large-leaved evergreen *Ligustrum lucidum* would make a fine stock. This tree privet does well in gardens in the city of San Antonio, Texas. *Chionanthus retusa* S.P.I. 21617 might also be a good stock for same.

"We are having here a very bad persimmon year, few fruits are coming in. The growers say it was the early rains which prevented the fruit from setting and even when set, water that lodged beneath the large calyx caused the young fruit to drop. As such I have not quite been able to make out whether all fruits on a tree are exactly alike as regards the position of the incision around or whether there is a variation among them even on one tree. Yesterday I obtained some fruits from a seller and two varieties were all mixed up; one a very flat form, with the incision close to the calyx and the other, somewhat rounder, with the cut more toward the middle of the fruit."